



2856

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Call et al.

Attorney Docket No: MESO0045

Serial No: 10/066,404

Group Art Unit: 2856

Filed: February 1, 2002

Examiner: Raevis, Robert

Title: ROBUST SYSTEM FOR SCREENING MAIL FOR BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

ELECTION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Bellevue, Washington 98004

April 25, 2003

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

Transmitted herewith is an election in response to restriction requirement in the above-identified patent application. No additional claim fee is required, as shown below. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-1940. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

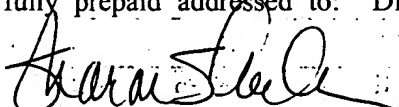
<u>Computation of Fee For Claims as Amended</u>					
	<u>Claims Remaining after Amendment</u>	<u>Highest Number Previously Paid For</u>	<u>Present Extra</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Additional Fee</u>
Total Claims	87	87	-0-	x \$9	-0-
Independent Claims	4	4	-0-	x \$42	-0-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					-0-

Respectfully submitted,


Michael C. King
Registration No. 44,832

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Director of Patents and Trademarks, Arlington, VA 22202, on April 25, 2003.

Date: April 25, 2003





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Election
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ELECTION IN RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Bellevue, Washington 98004

April 25, 2003

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

The following is a response to an Office Action dated March 26, 2003. In this Office Action, the Examiner has issued a Restriction, indicating that the above-identified patent application contains claims directed to thirty-two patentably distinct species, noting the species are determined by various possible combinations of the drawing figures. The Examiner indicates that three different elections must be made. The Examiner requires applicants to elect a species by selecting one of the four possible options represented by FIGURES 2A-2D, one of the two options represented by FIGURES 4A and 4B, and one of the four possible options represented by FIGURES 13 and 14, 15, 18, and 19. In combination, the four alternatives from FIGURES 2A-2D, the two alternatives from FIGURES 4A and 4B, and the four alternatives from FIGURES 13, 15, 18 and 19 generate *thirty-two* patentably distinct species (i.e., the product of $4 \times 2 \times 4$).

The Examiner has required applicants, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the present application will be restricted, if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner asserts that there is no generic claim.

Election

In response to the restriction, applicants hereby elect the species defined by FIGURES 2A (wherein a blade opens the parcel), 4A (collector rinsed in situ), and 13 (the first disclosed embodiment of a radial arm collector), with traverse. As is discussed in detail below, applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's conclusion that no claim is generic.

With respect to an identification of the claims reading on the elected species, applicants submit that the following claims read on the species defined by the combination of FIGURES 2A, 4A and 13: Claims 1-8, 11, 13-30, 33-59, 62, and 64-87.